

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of coating a medical implant comprising:
2 placing a medical implant into a rotatable drum;
3 tumbling the medical implant in the drum for a predetermined amount of
4 time; and
5 interfacing a therapeutic with the tumbling medical implant.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 drying the therapeutic on the medical implant.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein drying the therapeutic on the medical implant
2 includes spraying an inert gas into the drum.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 suspending the medical implants above an internal surface of the drum.
- 1 5. A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
2 providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having at least a
3 first opening;
4 placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
5 rotating the drum to tumble the medical implant;
6 spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant; and
7 removing the medical implant from the drum.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the drum is a drum rotatable about its
2 longitudinal axis.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 forcing a compressible fluid from a compressible fluid source into the
3 drum;
4 circulating the compressible fluid in the drum; and
5 waiting until the therapeutic on the medical implant is dry before removing
6 the medical implant from the drum.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein spraying the therapeutic into the drum is
2 repeated at least once.

1 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 heating the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid source prior to
3 forcing the compressible fluid into the drum.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid
2 source is heated to a temperature in the range of 20 to 70 degrees centigrade.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid
2 source is heated to a temperature associated with a working temperature of the
3 therapeutic.

1 12. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 drawing a compressible fluid into the drum.

1 13. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 heating the rotatable drum after spraying the therapeutic into the drum.

1 14. The method of claim 5, wherein the pan coater is provided with a compressible
2 fluid suspension system that forces a compressible fluid into the drum with a
3 force sufficient to maintain the medical implant aloft in the drum.

- 1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the compressible fluid suspension system uses
2 an inert gas to maintain the medical implants aloft.
- 1 16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
2 periodically activating the compressible fluid suspension system.
- 1 17. The method of claim 5, wherein the drum has perforations on an outer surface.
- 1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
2 passing therapeutic through the perforations; and
3 passing compressible fluid through the perforations.
- 1 19. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 recycling therapeutic that did not adhere to the implant during spraying.
- 1 20. A computer readable medium storing instructions for operating a pan coater for
2 coating a medical implant, the instructions comprising directions for the pan
3 coater to:
4 rotate a drum to tumble a medical implant;
5 spray a first therapeutic into the drum through a spray nozzle while
6 rotating the drum; and
7 stop the drum from rotating.
- 1 21. The computer readable medium of claim 20, storing further directions for the pan
2 coater to:
3 force a compressible fluid into the drum after spraying the first therapeutic
4 into the drum.

1 22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, storing further directions for the pan
2 coater to:
3 heat the compressible fluid prior to forcing the compressible fluid into the
4 drum.

1 23. The computer readable medium of claim 20 storing further directions for the pan
2 coater to:
3 draw a compressible fluid out of the drum through a compressible fluid
4 exhaust opening.

1 24. The computer readable medium of claim 20 storing further directions for the pan
2 coater to:
3 spray a second therapeutic into the drum after a medical implant has
4 been placed into the drum.

1 25. A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
2 providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having at least a
3 first opening;
4 placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
5 injecting a compressible fluid into the drum with a force sufficient to
6 maintain the medical implant aloft in the drum to tumble the medical implant;
7 spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant; and
8 removing the medical implant from the drum.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the compressible fluid is an inert gas.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein the compressible fluid is also for drying the
2 therapeutic on the medical implant.

- 1 28. The method of claim 25, further comprising:
2 periodically injecting the compressible fluid into the drum.

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